Controversy in New Seed Policy

447. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any controversy has arisen in the new seed policy particularly provisions relating to import of seed under OGL; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of soft drink concentrate plant

448. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted some units for setting up soft drink concentrate plants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) In the recent past Government has issued a Letter of Intent to M/s Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the Manufacture *inter alia* of soft drink concentrates for an annual capacity of 20,000 units (One unit produces 1800 cases, each case of 24 services of 225 milli-litres each).

Election of Panchayats

449. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister, while inaugurating the Panchayati Raj Sammelan in Delhi on the 27th January, 1989, has said that he wanted election to Panchayats be assured and supersession be avoided and also that it would also be decided as to which institutions should come under which authority at the local level;

(b) whether the concerned institutions have been identified for being taken into consideration; if so, the names thereof;

(c) the steps being taken in this regard and their outline; and

(d) by when they are envisaged to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The Prime Minister while participating in the Sammelan referred to a number of issues relevant to the subject of strengthening the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

(b) to (d) The entire question of revitalising the Panchayati Raj Institute is under active consideration of the Government.

Demand and supply position of steel in the country

450. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the demand and supply position of steel in the country, category-wise details; and

(b) how the gap between demand and supply is going to be filled-up?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) The demand and supply position of steel in the country category-wise in the current year is as follows:—

(in Million tonnes)

Year	Assessed Demand	Estimated Availability from indigenous sources
1988--89		
Flat Products . .	5.8	5.1
Non-Flat products .	7.9	7.3
Others	0.2	0.1
	13.9	12.5

(b) The gap is met to the extent possible through imports, subject to avilability of Foreign Exchange from time to time.

Representation from the Indian Federation of Small and Medium Newspapers

451. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Indian Federation of Small & Medium Newspapers with regard to certain concessions needed for their growth;

(b) if so, details of the representation; and

(c) action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) The Indian Federation of Small & Medium Newspapers had sent a copy of the rsolution adopted in Dec., 1988 in the All India Convention of Editors and Annual General Meeting of the Federation.

(b) A statement is enclosed (*See* below)

(c) The Government is always alive to the problems of small and medium newspapers. It has been the endeavour of the Government to help in the growth of small and medium newspapers and provide them with the necessary supporting services consistent with the Government's deep commitment to the freedom of the Press, through the various organs of the Government within financial and administrative constraints. Several concessions and facilities have been extended specifically to the small and medium newspapers from time to time. The Committee on Long Term Newsprint Allocation Policy headed by Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Chairman, Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices and the Committee constituted to suggest measures to rationalise the Advertisement Policy of the Goevrnment under the Chairmanship of Shri Ramamohan Rao, Principal Information Officer, have looked into, *inter alia* the problems of small and medium newspapers in respect of matters relating to newsprint and advertisement respectively. Their recommendations are under consideration. Various other problems of small and medium newspapers are being looked into by an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Suman Dubey, Adviser, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The Press and Registration of Books (Amendment) Bill, 1988 introduced in the Parliament on 4-12-1988 is, *inter alia*, intended to facilitate a faster and balanced growth of newspapers. The views that may be expressed during the debate on the Bill will receive Government's due consideration. Press bodies are